

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A strapping connection for a
2 pair of longitudinally extending and transversely overlapping strap
3 ends, the connection comprising:

4 a pair of longitudinally extending and interengaging hook
5 formations formed as transversely pushed-out regions of the strap
6 ends and permitting limited movement of the strap ends in one
7 longitudinal direction; and

8 ~~transversely interengaging lock formations~~
9 complementarily conical dimples fitting transversely snugly
10 together, prohibiting relative longitudinal movement of the strap
11 ends, and formed in the pair of hook formations.

1 2. (currently amended) The strapping connection defined
2 in claim 1, further comprising

3 a second pair of longitudinally extending and
4 interengaging end hook formations spaced longitudinally from the
5 first-mentioned pair, formed as transversely pushed-out regions of
6 the strap ends, permitting limited movement of the strap ends in
7 one longitudinal direction, and free of the ~~lock formations~~ conical
8 dimples.

3 - 5. (canceled)

1 6. (currently amended) The strapping connection defined
2 in claim 1 wherein the ~~lock-formations~~ conical dimples pierce
3 completely through one of the strap ends.

1 7. (currently amended) The strapping connection defined
2 in claim 1 wherein each hook formation has an end portion defined
3 between a pair of closely spaced and longitudinally extending cuts,
4 another end portion spaced longitudinally from the one end portion
5 and defined between a pair of widely spaced and longitudinally
6 extending cuts, and an intermediate portion between the end
7 portions and formed between a pair of angled cuts each connecting a
8 respective one of the closely spaced cuts with a respective one of
9 the widely spaced cuts.

1 8. (currently amended) The strapping connection defined
2 in claim 7 wherein the ~~lock-formations~~ conical dimples are formed
3 between the widely spaced cuts.

1 9. (currently amended) The strapping connection defined
2 in claim 1 wherein the ~~lock-formations~~ conical dimples project
3 transversely by a distance equal at least to a thickness of the
4 strap ends.

10 - 16 (withdrawn)